

Message Text

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SUBJ: BULGARIAN WAR ROLE CRITICIZED

1. ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN ISSUE 35 OF "BRATSTVO", A NIS-BASED BULGARIAN LANGUAGE WEEKLY, (AND SUMMARTIZED IN 15 JUNE BORBA), HAS ACCUSED BULGARIAN FATHERLAND FRONT FORCES OF MAKING AN "UNSATISFACTORY CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR OF NATIONAL LIBERATION." ARTICLE EXPLAINS THAT "BULGARIAN UNITS WERE SLOW AND INEFFICIENT, AND DEMONSTRATED MANY SHORTCOMINGS, DUE TO (THEIR) MORAL-POLITICAL STATE...SOMETHING WHICH COULD NOT BE CHANGED OVER-NIGHT --, SINCE THE MAJORITY OF (THE STRATEGIC CADRE) WAS ON THE SIZE OF NAZI GERMANY." AMONG OTHER THINGS, BULGARIAN UNITS USUALLY ARRIVED AT THE BATTLEFIELD HOURS LATE, AND CONTRIBUTED LITTLE. DURING LIBERATION OF NIS, THEY BEHAVED MORE LIKE OCCUPIERS THAN LIBERATORS, PLUNDERING PEOPLE OF REGION, AND SERBIAN COS DEMANDED THAT BULGARIAN TROOPS BE SENT HOME.

2. COMMENT: YUGOSLAVSA ALWAYS MAKE DISTINCTION BETWEEN BULGARIAN OCCUPIERS AND FATHERLAND FRONT FORCES, WHOSE ROLE, HOWEVER, THEY CONSIDERED BULGARIANS HAVE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED, AND WHOSE "HELP" TITO ONLY RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED. LANGUAGE OF BRATSVO ARTICLE BLURS EVEN THAT DISTINCTION AND CANNOT BE INTENDED TO CALM TROUBLED WATERS.
SILBERMAN

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